

frequently the most rugged and irregular specimens are the most productive. Doubtless some of these pearls, on account of their exceptional size and brilliance, must possess a very considerable commercial value. The *Pecten* pearls are semi-transparent white, covered to a great extent with a close opaque white mottling, and are of various shapes and sizes. These are probably not of so much money-value, as they do not exhibit the nacreous lustre of the orient pearl. A magnificent pearl in Mr. Gordon Smith's possession, which he informs me was found in a *Pinna*, is intensely black and almost perfectly spherical. It is very brilliant, unique in size, weighing 55 grains, and is valued at some hundreds of pounds by its possessor.

The *Mytilus* pearls from Japan are beautifully lustrous, more or less round, dark greenish grey or bluish black. We do not know the cause of these pearls in the *Haliotis*, the *Pecten*, or the *Mytilus* from Japan. The origin of them in the European mussel has been traced to the presence of the larval stages of Trematode worms,¹ and therefore it is highly probable that the Japanese pearls may have a similar origin. With regard to the *Haliotis* and *Pecten* pearls we should expect their occurrence to be due to the same or like causes.

Mr. Gordon Smith informs me that the *Haliotis* shells are dived for mostly by women, 18 Japanese fathoms of 5 feet being the limit of the depth attainable by them, though doubtless the shells occur at greater depths. The pearls are exceedingly rare.

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THE NAME *Bourcieria*. (Read 14th June, 1907.)—Recently, working at some operculate land shells, my attention has been called to the genus *Bourcieria*, Pfr. It was proposed by him (Zeitschr. Malak., vol. viii, p. 178) in January, 1852, for *B. helicinesformis*, Pfr.

Unfortunately Mons. Bourcier had already, in 1850, been honoured by the genus *Bourcieria*, by Bonaparte in Birds—Trochilidæ (see C.R. Ac. Paris, vol. xxx, p. 380).

Both names cannot stand in Zoology, and I propose to rename the Molluscan genus *Pseudhelicina*, taking as type the species proposed by Pfeiffer.

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¹ See Jameson, Proc. Zool. Soc., 1902, vol. i, p. 140; also Herdman, "Pearl Production," Report Pearl Oyster Fisheries of the Gulf of Manaar, pt. v (1906).